

In the Claims:

1-9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously Presented) Method for dispensing an intermediate layer from a rolled up supply of sheet material for laying between layers of stackable items on pallets, comprising the steps of:

feeding a free end of the rolled up supply of sheet material by feeding means across a table that includes a mechanical cutter unit,

cutting an intermediate layer from the supply of sheet material of a length suitable for an actual pallet size, and from which table the cut intermediate layer is ready for further handling, interposing and laying between layers of stackable items on a pallet,

and applying a non-skid coating on at least one surface of the intermediate layer during said feeding step.

11. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 10, wherein the non-skid coating is applied as a number of stripes or lengths on said at least one surface.

12. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 11, wherein the number of stripes or lengths of non-skid coating applied to the said at least one surface is in the range of 2 - 10 stripes or lengths.

13. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 11, wherein the number of stripes or lengths of non-skid coating applied to the said at least one surface is in the range of 2 - 5 stripes or lengths.

14. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 11, wherein the number of stripes or lengths of non-skid coating applied to the said at least one surface is in the range of 2 - 4 stripes or lengths.

15. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 12, wherein the stripes or lengths of non-skid coating are evenly distributed over the intermediate layer.

16. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 10, wherein the non-skid coating is applied to the surface in atomized form by one of a nozzle, swirl-application, and slot coating.

17. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 10, wherein the non-skid coating is constituted by a hotmelt medium.

18. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 10, further comprising the additional step of using a vacuum holder on a free end of an elevatable, lowerable and pivotable handling arm of a ~~palletiser~~ palletizer which is equipped with at least one articulated joint for laying a respective intermediate layer of sheet material between layers of stackable items so that, after each layer of stackable items is laid, an intermediate layer is placed thereon.

19. (Previously Presented) Sheet dispenser for dispensing an intermediate layer from a rolled up supply of sheet material for laying between layers of stackable items on pallets, comprising:

a web of sheet material rolled up in a supply,

feeding means for drawing out a free end of the rolled up sheet material from the supply,

a table having a surface for receiving the free end drawn out of the rolled up supply and a mechanical cutter unit for cutting off the intermediate layer with a length suited for a pallet, and

dispenser unit for successive application of a non-skid coating on at least one side of a length of the sheet material that has been drawn out over the cutter unit and passed over the cutting edge on the mechanical cutter unit.

20. (Currently Amended) Sheet dispenser according to claim 19, wherein the feeding means for drawing out the free end of the length comprises a number of interspaced, synchronously driven conveyor belts, and the dispenser unit for successive application of the non-skid coating includes a number of interspaced application nozzles disposed in at least one interspace[[s]] between the conveyor belts.

21. (Currently Amended) Sheet dispenser according to claim 19, further comprising a ~~palletiser~~ palletizer including an elevatable, lowerable and pivotable handling arm which is equipped with at least one articulated joint, a free end of the handling arm being provided with a vacuum holder for gripping single items, and a control unit for controlling the handling arm, the vacuum holder being operable for laying a respective intermediate layer of sheet material between layers of stackable items so that, after each layer of stackable items is laid, a intermediate layer is placeable thereon by the vacuum holder on the handling arm.

22. (New) Method according to claim 11, wherein the stripes are formed extending in a lengthwise direction of the sheet layer.

23. (New) Method according to claim 22, wherein the stripes are formed by being sprayed onto the sheet material as it fed onto the table.